

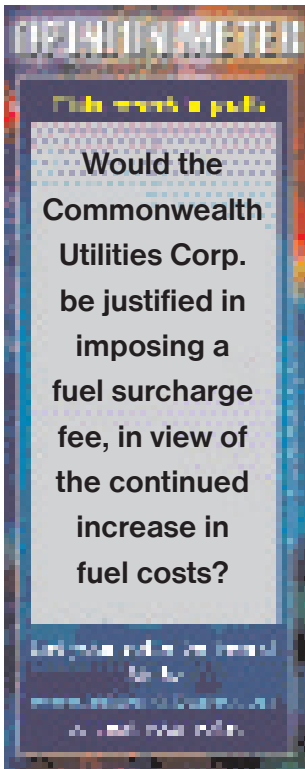
# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 316

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## INSIDE



### Ashcroft, Evans Resign

Attorney General John Ashcroft, a fierce conservative who generated controversy with his tough tactics in the war on terror, and Commerce Secretary Don Evans, one of President Bush's closest friends, resigned Tuesday, the first members of the Cabinet to quit before the start of a second term.

Page 15



### Fallujah Forays

U.S. troops powered their way into the center of the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah on Tuesday, overwhelming small bands of guerrillas with massive force, searching homes along the city's deserted, narrow passageways and using loudspeakers to try to goad militants onto the streets.

Page 19

# \$3.4M land payment stopped

'Compensation is almost 1,000 times the sum awarded by court in 1978'

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Only last week, a Saipan family stood to receive \$3.45 million as compensation for the property where the Marianas High School sits. That family may now end up with nothing, after the Attorney General's Office said the payment of the land compensation might be illegal.

Assistant attorney general Benjamin Sachs asked the Commonwealth Development Authority on Monday not to process a \$3.45-million drawdown request made by the Marianas Public Lands Authority for the benefit of the Maliti Estate.

Administrated by Jesus C. Tudela, the Maliti Estate comprises the heirs of Angel Maliti, who owned the 6,900-square meter property that the Trust

Territory government condemned for the purpose of constructing what is now Marianas High School.

On Nov. 9, 1978, the court awarded \$3,682.30 to the Maliti family as compensation for the condemned land.

The government says it issued a check to pay a portion of the award. It is not known if the check was paid to the Maliti family. The heirs claim they

See \$3.4M on Page 12

## Karidat welfare aid declines in 6 years

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

The number of immigrants in the CNMI receiving assistance from Karidat has declined in the last six years.

Records from Karidat showed that from an average of 400 welfare families from 1998 to 2001, the number dropped to just over 200 in 2003.

In a report to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero said that the non-profit organization provided food and shelter assistance to 455 families in 1998, 482 families in 1999, 329 in 2000, 397 in 2001, 370 in 2002, and 280 last year.

These families are immigrants from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

"Many of these people are unskilled and have been unable to secure permanent employment. Due to this economic predicament, they have resorted to Karidat for food and shelter assistance as their only source of relief," Guerrero said.

She noted that some of these individuals "have been totally dependent on Karidat for their food supply."

See KARIDAT on Page 12

## 11 quakes jolt NMI in a week

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

At least 11 earthquakes shook portions of the Northern Marianas in less than one week.

The U.S. Geological Survey recorded the quakes from Wednesday last week until last Tuesday. The tremors' intensities ranged from 4.4 to 6.0 on the Richter scale.

The most recent earthquake had an intensity of 5.1 and shook the islands past 6am Tuesday. The USGS located the tremor's center about 100 miles southeast of Saipan, 115 miles east of Rota, and 160 miles south-

See 11 QUAKES on Page 12

## 'Paseo de Marianas to improve tourism, economy'

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

After months of construction, the Paseo de Marianas open-air mall in Garapan officially opened to the public on Tuesday, a development that is seen as key to the revitalization of the Garapan tourist district.

Local officials, NMI beauty queens, tourists, the local *man'amko*, and other members of the community gathered at the mall to mark its grand opening Tuesday evening, with restaurants surrounding the area giving out free food and drinks while musicians Sam Joyner and Ace Elameto, as well as cultural dance group Isa Dancers, providing live entertainment.

"It's nice, it's something different, and it's great," said Francis Mendiola while touring the area.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who led the ribbon cutting ceremony, said the mall tells visiting guests that the CNMI "is a first-class destination."

"Our guests, in turn, will spread the word, which is probably the most effective way to spread a particular destination—through word of mouth—that the CNMI is the place to go. It will help bolster our tourism, which in turn will improve our economy," the governor said.

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair David M. Sablan agreed, citing the significant effect the mall will play in the island's tourism industry.

"Travel behaviors have become  
See PASEO on Page 12





Local

NMC behind in first lease payment for La Fiesta

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is now behind in its first annual payment of \$200,000 for the lease of the La Fiesta shopping complex, as the transfer of the facility to the CNMI Executive Branch remains unofficial.

In an interview yesterday, NMC president Tony Deleon

Guerrero said the memorandum of agreement signed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the college has yet to be finalized pending review by the Attorney General's Office.

Executed two months ago, the agreement was supposed to have relieved NMC of all obligations over La Fiesta starting Oct. 1. These obligations include the annual

\$200,000 land lease and the mall's operation, which averages \$30,000 monthly after payment from tenants.

Earlier, NMC said the MOA could not be finalized pending the approval of La Fiesta's original sellers. Deleon Guerrero reported yesterday that Hotel Nikko Saipan and Coco's Lagoon Development Corp. have now agreed to NMC's agree-

ment with the governor.

However, the only reason now delaying the finalization of the transfer is the legal review being conducted by the Attorney General's Office, Deleon Guerrero said.

"We are just waiting for the attorney general to review all documents related to the transfer and make sure everything

is done legally. We expect it to be done within the next couple of weeks. Then we will sign another agreement making the transfer official," Deleon Guerrero said.

Meantime, he said the initial \$200,000 leasehold payment for La Fiesta is still outstanding. The first payment became due last Oct. 29, but Hotel Nikko

and Coco's Lagoon have reportedly agreed to provide the government a 60-day grace period to pay the due amount.

"We have already reminded the Governor's Office that the first payment is due. They actually have until Dec. 29 to pay, but of course we don't want them to stretch up to the deadline," Deleon Guerrero said.

BON VOYAGE

Lily Ruivivar, right, has left the islands after a period of time working here. Her friends wish her the best as she embarks on a new stage in her life. Here, Ruivivar is shown with Philippine TV personality Christine Bersola.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tenorio says CIP funding may increase to \$12.42M

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio disclosed yesterday that the CNMI's capital improvement funds might increase by over \$1.4 million in the new fiscal year, on top of the threshold \$11 million that the CNMI is supposed to get per year.

If adopted by the U.S. Congress, the total CIP funds for the CNMI for FY 2005 would reach some \$12.423 million, Tenorio said.

Tenorio expressed optimism on the possible increase in funding after the federal House Subcommittee on Appropriations endorsed the Office of Insular Affairs and the CNMI's joint recommendation to accelerate construction of critically needed infrastructure, such as water and sewer projects. These projects were outlined in the CNMI Capital Improvement Plan earlier submitted to the OIA.

"My request for an additional amount of \$1 million dollars to continue to improve the CNMI water system, particularly Saipan's water has been approved by the subcommittee. This one million dollars is in addi-

tion to the Covenant Section 702 CIP funds of \$12.423 million," Tenorio said in a media release. "A provision is included in the appropriations bill which will not require the local government to match the federal contribution for FY 2005 CIP."

The committee's decision to provide an additional \$1 million for water on top of the CNMI's CIP entitlement for FY 200505 "is another significant sign that my cry for help has not fallen on deaf ears," said Tenorio.

He expressed optimism that the U.S. Senate would endorse the recommendation for fund increases by the lower house.



Tenorio

#108-341 is its recommendation to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to expedite its review of the CNMI's request on the cover over of tax revenue to the CNMI pursuant to section 703 (b) of the Covenant," Tenorio said.

"If positive action is taken by DOI, with concurrence by IRS, the CNMI might very well be awarded with a substantial amount of tax funds from prior years of collection, which were retained by IRS due to disagreement on the Covenant's provision on tax cover over," he added.

Tenorio credited the support of Deputy Assistant Secretary David Cohen in advancing the interests of the Commonwealth.

"With the continuing support of our Executive and Legislative branch to present a unified and unequivocal position to Congress as one Commonwealth and as one people, much will be accomplished," Tenorio said. (John Ravelo)

Tax funds

Tenorio also disclosed that a Senate committee has recommended the expedited review by the Secretary of the Interior on the CNMI's request to release withheld tax funds.

"Another significant item in the Senate Committee's Report

joeten ent.  
+blue

Island Snapshots

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed photos of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details for description of the event, location of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place, the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the date of the picture. Contributors are e-mail their submissions to: editor@saipantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 223-6207, 223-3446, or 223-4743.

# Ogo wants Rota funds restored

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

Rota Rep. Crispin Ogo is asking the legislative conference committee to restore budget cuts made by the Senate on four “priority” items: funding for a Manila liaison office and Rota liaison office on Saipan, 30 percent bonus for early retirees, and retroactive pay.

House leadership spokesman Charles Reyes Jr. said Ogo wants the conference committee to place back the House appropriation of \$100,000 for the creation of a liaison office in Manila to facilitate the travel of CNMI medical patients.

“The Senate took it out from the budget. Congressman Ogo feels that it is necessary to diversify our health care, citing several advantages such as Manila’s proximity, lower cost, similar culture, and quality of services,” said Reyes.

Reyes said Ogo is also pushing for a \$15,000 budget for a Rota liaison office on Saipan. “Right now, there’s no clear, regular appropriation for this. They just juggle funds every year,” he said.

Reyes said Ogo intends to fight for this program funding.

Further, he said that Ogo is petitioning the conference committee to allow a 30-percent bonus for early retirees on Rota. He said the Senate agreed to such a benefit for Tinian employees, but not Rota.

Likewise, the Rota congressman favors the allocation of lapsed funds for Rota’s retroactive pay.

The House version of the 2005 budget, Reyes said, provides that these lapsed funds would be used for retroactive pay, but the Senate amended it to say that the funds may be reprogrammed by the Rota delegation through legislation.

“What the congressman wants is to make it automatic [for Rota retroactive payment],” he said.

Reyes said the House conference committee members met yesterday in preparation for a joint discussion of the 2005 budget with their Senate counterparts.

“They are getting ready. The Senate would have to meet among themselves first before they meet as a joint panel,” said Reyes.

The House committee is chaired by majority floor leader Rep. Oscar M. Babauta. Other members are representatives

## Rota dialysis up by next year

Rota government officials have been talking with a Guam-based company to construct Rota’s first dialysis center by next year.

Rota congressman Crispin Ogo said local officials are working together to get the project started in two months.

“We’re now in phase three, meaning we’re talking now about the company’s proposal,” he said.

Guam-based JMI Medical System Inc. representatives reportedly presented its proposal to the Rota delegation last Tuesday.

“This project can be done in six months so we’re hoping to have it completed before end of 2005,” said Ogo, chairman

of House Health and Welfare Committee.

Rota has received a total of \$1.5 million funding to undertake the project.

“This is very good news to our patients. Our goal is to treat our patients right there,” he said.

Ogo said the facility would include six dialysis stations, including two back-up machines.

Rota earlier asked for \$2 million for the project but Ogo agreed that \$1.5 million would be enough to cover the project costs.

Rota senator Paul Manglona earlier said that the funding level “is workable.”  
*(Liberty Dones)*

Norman S. Palacios, Justo S. Quitugua, Crispin Ogo, Arnold Palacios, and Jesus Attao.

The Senate panel consists of senators Joseph Mendiola, Henry H. San Nicolas, Luis P. Crisostimo, Thomas P. Villagomez, Diego M. Songao, and Paul A. Manglona.

The House has approved a \$212.7 million for FY05 but the Senate raised it to \$217.7 million in view of \$5.1 million additional projected revenues submitted by the Babauta administration. The administration later submitted another \$1.5 million additional funding available for FY05.

### BABY NEWS

BANK OF SAIPAN  
PROMO  
CMYK



## COMMUNITY Briefs

### Free conference on domestic violence

The Domestic Violence Conference Steering Committee will be hosting a Domestic Violence Conference on Dec. 2 and 3, 2004 (Thursday and Friday) at the Hyatt Regency SandCastle. Admission is free.

Some of the topics are Dynamics of Domestic Violence, Temporary Restraining Order Process, the new Domestic Violence Law, and the Criminal Justice System's Response to Domestic Violence.

Seating is limited so call as soon as possible to register.

For more information contact Patrick Diaz at 236-9783, Ursula Aldan at 236-9868, or Esther Milne at 323-1954.

### Call for energy conservation vendors

The Residential Energy Assistance Challenge of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is seeking vendors of energy conservation products to demonstrate their products at the REACH Energy Fair on Nov. 20, 2004. REACH invites the participation of vendors in the areas of lighting; refrigeration and air-conditioning; energy star label products; alternative power sources; energy-saving technology; glass windows; landscaping; and construction.

The goal of the Fair is to increase public awareness on ways to save energy and money. Food and entertainment vendors are also welcome. Interested vendors must register by Nov. 15, 2004. Registration forms are available at the DCCA Office, 1341 Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill. For more information contact REACH project coordinator Linda Concepcion-Torres at 670-664-2576 or reachlctorres@yahoo.com.

### CCLPC Commissioners meeting notice

The Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission will conduct its regular meeting on Friday, Dec. 3, 2004, at 1pm, at the Office on Aging Conference Room. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

For more information, contact the Language Commission Office at 288-5321/26/27.

### Deadline set for EAP scholarship

The Educational Assistance Program Winter/Spring 2005 deadline is Dec. 15, 2004.

EAP is for those who have completed their high school requirement and desires to pursue a postsecondary education (certificate to bachelor's degree).

EAP provides funding to assist defray educational cost for eligible individuals for the following program:

- on-island/offisland enrolled at an accredited institution as a fulltime status;
- on-island fulltime employee who desires to pursue a postsecondary education on a part-time status;
- on-island students taking courses online which are not offered at Northern Marianas College.

Upon availability of funds, EAP offers financial assistance for the following programs: Graduate, Juris Doctor or Doctor of Medicine.

Application must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 15, 2004. If you have submitted an application for Fall 2004, the application is still valid. Supporting documents (may be submitted at a later date) are U.S. passport and/or birth certificate issued by the court, an acceptance letter into the school you plan to attend, the most recent official sealed transcript and proof of 2002 & 2003 CNMI residency.

Additionally, other scholarship application for the 2004/2005 is now available. Log on to [www.cnmischolarship.com](http://www.cnmischolarship.com) for more details.

### Students to send letters to NMI soldiers

Public and private school students in the Commonwealth are writing holiday letters to CNMI military personnel who won't be home in the CNMI for the holidays.

The letters are part of Project Holiday Cheer, which is being sponsored by the Office of the Governor, the Public School System, the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, VFW Post 3457, the Pacific STAR Center for Young Writers, and the Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation.

Packets will include letters and a t-shirt designed by one of the student illustrators.

"If you have a family member or know someone in the military who won't be home for the holidays, please provide us with an address so a packet can be mailed from the CNMI community," project organizers said in a statement.

There will be a Pacific STAR table at the Veteran's Day ceremonies this Thursday, Nov. 11, 10:30am-12:30pm at the American Memorial Park. Individuals can also page Katharyn Tuten-Puckett at 236-READ and she will return the call to get the address.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE JANUARY 2004									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
Destination	Time	Day	Flight	Gate	Origin	Time	Day	Flight	Gate
San Francisco	7:00am	Mon	UA 101	1	San Francisco	11:00am	Mon	UA 101	1
Los Angeles	7:30am	Tue	AA 102	2	Los Angeles	11:30am	Tue	AA 102	2
Honolulu	8:00am	Wed	DL 103	3	Honolulu	12:00pm	Wed	DL 103	3
London	8:30am	Thu	BA 104	4	London	12:30pm	Thu	BA 104	4
Paris	9:00am	Fri	AF 105	5	Paris	1:00pm	Fri	AF 105	5
Miami	9:30am	Sat	AM 106	6	Miami	1:30pm	Sat	AM 106	6
New York	10:00am	Sun	JB 107	7	New York	2:00pm	Sun	JB 107	7
Chicago	10:30am	Mon	MD 108	8	Chicago	2:30pm	Mon	MD 108	8
San Jose	11:00am	Tue	CO 109	9	San Jose	3:00pm	Tue	CO 109	9
San Francisco	11:30am	Wed	UA 110	1	San Francisco	3:30pm	Wed	UA 110	1
Los Angeles	12:00pm	Thu	AA 111	2	Los Angeles	4:00pm	Thu	AA 111	2
Honolulu	12:30pm	Fri	DL 112	3	Honolulu	4:30pm	Fri	DL 112	3
London	1:00pm	Sat	BA 113	4	London	5:00pm	Sat	BA 113	4
Paris	1:30pm	Sun	AF 114	5	Paris	5:30pm	Sun	AF 114	5
Miami	2:00pm	Mon	AM 115	6	Miami	6:00pm	Mon	AM 115	6
New York	2:30pm	Tue	JB 116	7	New York	6:30pm	Tue	JB 116	7
Chicago	3:00pm	Wed	MD 117	8	Chicago	7:00pm	Wed	MD 117	8
San Jose	3:30pm	Thu	CO 118	9	San Jose	7:30pm	Thu	CO 118	9
San Francisco	4:00pm	Fri	UA 119	1	San Francisco	8:00pm	Fri	UA 119	1
Los Angeles	4:30pm	Sat	AA 120	2	Los Angeles	8:30pm	Sat	AA 120	2
Honolulu	5:00pm	Sun	DL 121	3	Honolulu	9:00pm	Sun	DL 121	3
London	5:30pm	Mon	BA 122	4	London	9:30pm	Mon	BA 122	4
Paris	6:00pm	Tue	AF 123	5	Paris	10:00pm	Tue	AF 123	5
Miami	6:30pm	Wed	AM 124	6	Miami	10:30pm	Wed	AM 124	6
New York	7:00pm	Thu	JB 125	7	New York	11:00pm	Thu	JB 125	7
Chicago	7:30pm	Fri	MD 126	8	Chicago	11:30pm	Fri	MD 126	8
San Jose	8:00pm	Sat	CO 127	9	San Jose	12:00am	Sat	CO 127	9
San Francisco	8:30pm	Sun	UA 128	1	San Francisco	12:30am	Sun	UA 128	1
Los Angeles	9:00pm	Mon	AA 129	2	Los Angeles	1:00am	Mon	AA 129	2
Honolulu	9:30pm	Tue	DL 130	3	Honolulu	1:30am	Tue	DL 130	3
London	10:00pm	Wed	BA 131	4	London	2:00am	Wed	BA 131	4
Paris	10:30pm	Thu	AF 132	5	Paris	2:30am	Thu	AF 132	5
Miami	11:00pm	Fri	AM 133	6	Miami	3:00am	Fri	AM 133	6
New York	11:30pm	Sat	JB 134	7	New York	3:30am	Sat	JB 134	7
Chicago	12:00am	Sun	MD 135	8	Chicago	4:00am	Sun	MD 135	8
San Jose	12:30am	Mon	CO 136	9	San Jose	4:30am	Mon	CO 136	9
San Francisco	1:00am	Tue	UA 137	1	San Francisco	5:00am	Tue	UA 137	1
Los Angeles	1:30am	Wed	AA 138	2	Los Angeles	5:30am	Wed	AA 138	2
Honolulu	2:00am	Thu	DL 139	3	Honolulu	6:00am	Thu	DL 139	3
London	2:30am	Fri	BA 140	4	London	6:30am	Fri	BA 140	4
Paris	3:00am	Sat	AF 141	5	Paris	7:00am	Sat	AF 141	5
Miami	3:30am	Sun	AM 142	6	Miami	7:30am	Sun	AM 142	6
New York	4:00am	Mon	JB 143	7	New York	8:00am	Mon	JB 143	7
Chicago	4:30am	Tue	MD 144	8	Chicago	8:30am	Tue	MD 144	8
San Jose	5:00am	Wed	CO 145	9	San Jose	9:00am	Wed	CO 145	9
San Francisco	5:30am	Thu	UA 146	1	San Francisco	9:30am	Thu	UA 146	1
Los Angeles	6:00am	Fri	AA 147	2	Los Angeles	10:00am	Fri	AA 147	2
Honolulu	6:30am	Sat	DL 148	3	Honolulu	10:30am	Sat	DL 148	3
London	7:00am	Sun	BA 149	4	London	11:00am	Sun	BA 149	4
Paris	7:30am	Mon	AF 150	5	Paris	11:30am	Mon	AF 150	5
Miami	8:00am	Tue	AM 151	6	Miami	12:00pm	Tue	AM 151	6
New York	8:30am	Wed	JB 152	7	New York	12:30pm	Wed	JB 152	7
Chicago	9:00am	Thu	MD 153	8	Chicago	1:00pm	Thu	MD 153	8
San Jose	9:30am	Fri	CO 154	9	San Jose	1:30pm	Fri	CO 154	9
San Francisco	10:00am	Sat	UA 155	1	San Francisco	2:00pm	Sat	UA 155	1
Los Angeles	10:30am	Sun	AA 156	2	Los Angeles	2:30pm	Sun	AA 156	2
Honolulu	11:00am	Mon	DL 157	3	Honolulu	3:00pm	Mon	DL 157	3
London	11:30am	Tue	BA 158	4	London	3:30pm	Tue	BA 158	4
Paris	12:00pm	Wed	AF 159	5	Paris	4:00pm	Wed	AF 159	5
Miami	12:30pm	Thu	AM 160	6	Miami	4:30pm	Thu	AM 160	6
New York	1:00pm	Fri	JB 161	7	New York	5:00pm	Fri	JB 161	7
Chicago	1:30pm	Sat	MD 162	8	Chicago	5:30pm	Sat	MD 162	8
San Jose	2:00pm	Sun	CO 163	9	San Jose	6:00pm	Sun	CO 163	9
San Francisco	2:30pm	Mon	UA 164	1	San Francisco	6:30pm	Mon	UA 164	1
Los Angeles	3:00pm	Tue	AA 165	2	Los Angeles	7:00pm	Tue	AA 165	2
Honolulu	3:30pm	Wed	DL 166	3	Honolulu	7:30pm	Wed	DL 166	3
London	4:00pm	Thu	BA 167	4	London	8:00pm	Thu	BA 167	4
Paris	4:30pm	Fri	AF 168	5	Paris	8:30pm	Fri	AF 168	5
Miami	5:00pm	Sat	AM 169	6	Miami	9:00pm	Sat	AM 169	6
New York	5:30pm	Sun	JB 170	7	New York	9:30pm	Sun	JB 170	7
Chicago	6:00pm	Mon	MD 171	8	Chicago	10:00pm	Mon	MD 171	8
San Jose	6:30pm	Tue	CO 172	9	San Jose	10:30pm	Tue	CO 172	9
San Francisco	7:00pm	Wed	UA 173	1	San Francisco	11:00pm	Wed	UA 173	1
Los Angeles	7:30pm	Thu	AA 174	2	Los Angeles	11:30pm	Thu	AA 174	2
Honolulu	8:00pm	Fri	DL 175	3	Honolulu	12:00am	Fri	DL 175	3
London	8:30pm	Sat	BA 176	4	London	12:30am	Sat	BA 176	4
Paris	9:00pm	Sun	AF 177	5	Paris	1:00am	Sun	AF 177	5
Miami	9:30pm	Mon	AM 178	6	Miami	1:30am	Mon	AM 178	6
New York	10:00pm	Tue	JB 179	7	New York	2:00am	Tue	JB 179	7
Chicago	10:30pm	Wed	MD 180	8	Chicago	2:30am	Wed	MD 180	8
San Jose	11:00pm	Thu	CO 181	9	San Jose	3:00am	Thu	CO 181	9
San Francisco	11:30pm	Fri	UA 182	1	San Francisco	3:30am	Fri	UA 182	1
Los Angeles	12:00am	Sat	AA 183	2	Los Angeles	4:00am	Sat	AA 183	2
Honolulu	12:30am	Sun	DL 184	3	Honolulu	4:30am	Sun	DL 184	3
London	1:00am	Mon	BA 185	4	London	5:00am	Mon	BA 185	4
Paris	1:30am	Tue	AF 186	5	Paris	5:30am	Tue	AF 186	5
Miami	2:00am	Wed	AM 187	6	Miami	6:00am	Wed	AM 187	6
New York	2:30am	Thu	JB 188	7	New York	6:30am	Thu	JB 188	7
Chicago	3:00am	Fri	MD 189	8	Chicago	7:00am	Fri	MD 189	8
San Jose	3:30am	Sat	CO 190	9	San Jose	7:30am	Sat	CO 190	9
San Francisco	4:00am	Sun	UA 191	1	San Francisco	8:00am	Sun	UA 191	1
Los Angeles	4:30am	Mon	AA 192	2	Los Angeles	8:30am	Mon	AA 192	2
Honolulu	5:00am	Tue	DL 193	3	Honolulu	9:00am	Tue	DL 193	3
London	5:30am	Wed	BA 194	4	London	9:30am	Wed	BA 194	4
Paris	6:00am	Thu	AF 195	5	Paris	10:00am	Thu	AF 195	5
Miami	6:30am	Fri	AM 196	6	Miami	10:30am	Fri	AM 196	6
New York	7:00am	Sat	JB 197	7	New York	11:00am	Sat	JB 197	7
Chicago	7:30am	Sun	MD 198	8	Chicago	11:30am	Sun	MD 198	8
San Jose	8:00am	Mon	CO 199	9	San Jose	12:00pm	Mon	CO 199	9
San Francisco	8:30am	Tue	UA 200	1	San Francisco	12:30pm	Tue	UA 200	1

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
City	Time	Day	Flight	Gate	City	Time	Day	Flight	Gate
San Francisco	7:00am	Mon	UA 101	1	San Francisco	11:00am	Mon	UA 101	1
Los Angeles	7:30am	Tue	AA 102	2	Los Angeles	11:30am	Tue	AA 102	2
Honolulu	8:00am	Wed	DL 103	3	Honolulu	12:00pm	Wed	DL 103	3
London	8:30am	Thu	BA 104	4	London	12:30pm	Thu	BA 104	4
Paris	9:00am	Fri	AF 105	5	Paris	1:00pm	Fri	AF 105	5
Miami	9:30am	Sat	AM 106	6	Miami	1:30pm	Sat	AM 106	6
New York	10:00am	Sun	JB 107	7	New York	2:00pm	Sun	JB 107	7
Chicago	10:30am	Mon	MD 108	8	Chicago	2:30pm	Mon	MD 108	8
San Jose	11:00am	Tue	CO 109	9	San Jose	3:00pm	Tue	CO 109	9
San Francisco	11:30am	Wed	UA 110	1	San Francisco	3:30pm	Wed	UA 110	1
Los Angeles	12:00pm	Thu	AA 111	2	Los Angeles	4:00pm	Thu	AA 111	2
Honolulu	12:30pm	Fri	DL 112	3	Honolulu	4:30pm	Fri	DL 112	3
London	1:00pm	Sat	BA 113	4	London	5:00pm	Sat	BA 113	4
Paris	1:30pm	Sun	AF 114	5	Paris	5:30pm	Sun	AF 114	5
Miami	2:00pm	Mon	AM 115	6	Miami	6:00pm	Mon	AM 115	6
New York	2:30pm	Tue	JB 116	7	New York	6:30pm	Tue	JB 116	7
Chicago	3:00pm	Wed	MD 117	8	Chicago	7:00pm	Wed	MD 117	8
San Jose	3:30pm	Thu	CO 118	9	San Jose	7:30pm	Thu	CO 118	9

ACE  
+RED



# Babauta names nominees for zoning board

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

Citing the need to rid Garapan of illegal operations, Gov. Juan N. Babauta reconstituted the Saipan Zoning Board, naming his nominees to the panel during Tuesday's Paseo de Marianas grand opening ceremony.

Among those named to the board were Maria Pangelinan, Rex Kosack, William Concepcion, Andrea Alepuyo, Connie Coward, Henry Hofschneider, and Isidoro Cabrera.

"One thing everyone says is that you've got to get rid of the girly bars in this area, the prostitution, and illegal gambling," he told the crowd. "These are things that are going on and we need to clean up Garapan. This zoning board is going to zone this area and the rest of Saipan so that there is order in the house."

He said the zoning board will continue the work that has already been started in Garapan by zoning out establishments that do not belong in the area,

making the Paseo de Marianas "a place where people can bring their families and a place we can all be proud of."

Babauta compared this project to the efforts of former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani to clean up Time Square in the heart of New York City.

"He [Giuliani] proved people wrong, and tonight, I say if Mayor Giuliani can clean up Time Square, then we can and should be able to clean up Garapan," Babauta said.

Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente,

chair of the High-5 Task Force, had earlier conceded that government efforts to transform the tourist district into a wholesome destination has become much like a game of whack-a-mole, with lawmen jumping on one section of the district and the prostitutes popping up elsewhere in the area.

He said the High-5 Task Force office received complaints against several identified pimps and prostitutes who loiter and solicit customers around the establishments'

premises in southern Garapan.

According to the complaints lodged by two big business operators, the sex workers hurt legitimate businesses as they harass and scare away tourists who come to shop in the stores.

Reports also disclosed that prostitution activities have become standard fare at some restaurants. Two Chinese restaurants—one located on Beach Road and another at central Garapan—were reportedly selling the girls' services off their menu as if they were a regular dish.

At the service of such patrons are in-house pimps employed by the restaurants. A special menu listing names of girls and their contact numbers, alongside the day's dishes, are also provided to loyal customers.

The task force—composed of the Public Health Sanitation Division, Revenue and Tax, Labor and Immigration, Public Safety Department and Attorney General's Office—have reportedly shut down several establishments for certain violations.

## WORLD'S LARGEST DIVE SHOW

Diving Equipment Marketing Association is the world's largest dive show showcasing dive industry publications, production companies, dive companies, and dive destinations. The Marianas—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—was represented at the DEMA Show 2004 on Oct. 13-14, 2004, in Houston, Texas. Held annually in October, DEMA was attended by potential divers from Japan, Korea, Russia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, and Southeast Asia. The DEMA Show was attended by the Marianas Visitors Authority to advance marketing efforts and keep the Marianas in the minds of professional and international scuba divers in all markets. Representing MVA were its managing director, Vicky Benavente, MVA marketing specialist II Marie Das, and Rick Northern of Stingray Divers on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## TOURIST SITES INSPECTION

Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors chair David M. Sablan, along with members of the MVA board and management team, conducted inspections of Tinian's tourist sites on Oct. 28, 2004. The tourist site inspections allow MVA to coordinate with government agencies to further tourist site development efforts in support of the CNMI's tourism industry. The site inspections were conducted following the MVA board meeting held on Tinian. Tourist site inspections on Saipan were held on Aug. 31, 2004 and Rota's site inspections are scheduled for Nov. 19, 2004.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Vehicle catches fire

A vehicle parked in Garapan caught fire shortly past noon on Monday.

According to Department of Public Safety information officer PO2 Eric F. David, 35-year-old vehicle owner Qing Hua Du arrived at the parking lot of the Ming Li Store by the Sonoda Apartment in Garapan and proceeded into the store for about 20 minutes.

An unidentified person later alerted people in the store that a sedan parked in the lot was on fire.

"Mr. Qing went outside and found that it was his sedan burning," David said. "Mr. Qing went inside to his car, when the police came and told him to exit his vehicle while they extinguish the fire."

David said the cause of the fire was due to electrical problems. No injuries were reported. *(Shan Seman)*

## Woman arrested for allegedly disturbing the peace, resisting arrest

A woman was taken into custody Sunday evening for allegedly disturbing the peace at a residential area in central Garapan.

Department of Public Safety public information officer PO2 Eric F. David said the woman, identified as Connie Wabol, also reportedly resisted arrest when a responding officer attempted to take her into custody.

David said DPS received a call reporting a disturbance incident at about 9:24pm. The responding officer met with the owner of the house, who instructed the officer to proceed to the back, where Wabol and John Wabol were found.

"According to the complainant, he wanted the couple to leave the area but they refused and had proceeded to the back of the house and started shouting because they were upset and did not want to leave," David said.

David said a male individual who wanted

the couple to leave "picked up a wooden pole and was going to assault John Wabol" but was instructed by the officer not to do so.

After being advised to leave the premises, John Wabol reportedly cooperated but Connie Wabol "stayed behind and refused to leave the area."

"She kept shouting and yelled profanities at the officer. The officer was about to arrest Connie when she started to fight back by pushing him back, refusing to be arrested," David said.

The officer managed to place Wabol under arrest and transported her to the Adult Correctional Facility in Susupe, where she was booked and detained. *(Shan Seman)*

## Man nabbed in domestic case

A 37-year-old man was arrested Sunday night for allegedly assaulting his common-law wife and children in Kagman II.

Department of Public Safety spokesman PO2 Eric F. David said the suspect, Suka Rodrigues, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

David said a report from the responding officer indicated that, while the victim's children were having dinner, the suspect "started to get mad at the kids and was chasing them out from the house."

The victim, who was in a nearby tin house, said she saw her kids running out of the house, with one being chased by her husband.

"She ran over to him to stop the commotion and found out that he was under the influence of alcohol," David said. "She tried to stop him and was pushed aside."

David said the suspect then went back into the house, took the glass cover of the rice cooker, and allegedly threw it at the victim. The cover missed the victim and reportedly hit the doorframe of the tin house. The suspect then went inside the house.

"[The victim] took all her kids and hid in the jungle away from her common-law husband. They walked over to her cousin's house where she felt that it was safe and called the police from there," David said.

The incident was reported at about 8:55pm. *(Shan Seman)*

yumul veterans day

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

SAIPANCELL  
CMYK



# 112 workers demand wages from former employer

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Over 100 alien workers turned up at the Department of Labor yesterday to seek right to transfer to new employers and to demand payment of wages.

The workers form barely a third of the 363 employees left without jobs after garment firm N.E.T. Corp. shut down in April.

In an interview, Labor hearing officer Herb Soll said most of the former N.E.T. Corp. employees have found new employers. However, at least 112 workers remain without a job and have pending wage claims.

Of the 112, only 29 have been able to appear before the hearing as of 12 noon. Most of

them were given memorandums to seek new employers within 45 days.

Soll asked the next 34 workers on the list to come back for the continuation of the hearing yesterday afternoon. The rest will have a chance to voice their concerns on Friday.

According to Soll, initial reports showed the 112 workers had combined claims amounting \$110,000 but N.E.T. Corp. has already made partial payment to the workers, leaving a total balance of about \$35,000.

“The company has indicated they will pay [the balance] starting next week. Naturally, they have to pay before we will release them of obligation,” Soll said.



Perry Lo, a Chinese/English translator for the Department of Labor, is surrounded by former N.E.T. Corp. employees outside the Labor Hearing Office Wednesday.

Ye Ming Li, one of the workers present for the hearing, said he and his co-workers were not given notice of the company’s closure. He said that before the shutdown, the business owners called for a meeting and told the workers that they will be transferred to another garment factory. He said they were given the impression that they would be transferred permanently.

But when they moved to the new company, they were informed that they could only work under a temporary work authorization, which is renewable every three months.

Ye Ming Li, a mechanic, said he has worked for an electronics store since N.E.T. Corp.’s closure. He is currently out of work, as his TWA renewal application is still pending at the Labor Department.

“It is very hard to find a job, especially for my co-workers. Most of us are Chinese; very few speak English,” Ye Ming Li noted.

Aside from unpaid wages, N.E.T. Corp. owners also owe cash that they borrowed from some of the workers, Ye Ming Li said.

He related that before closing the business and leaving the island, the wife of owner Li Kow Wing approached some of the employees and asked them for money.

“They said they needed the money to pay the workers. They said we should lend them money if we don’t want the company to close,” said Ye Ming Li, who claimed he is owed \$7,500 by the company owners.

He said he knows at least two other persons who are owed \$12,500 and \$10,000, respectively. He said one of the two workers even contemplated killing herself over the debt, as the money constituted her savings for the several years she worked on Saipan. Unemployed and without any money, she had no choice but to return to China, Ye Ming Li said.

“It’s really unfair,” he said.

## Security guard lands in jail for alleged sexual assault

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

Police took into custody a security guard Tuesday night for allegedly assaulting a woman while conducting a body search, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Police report indicated that the suspect, 33-year-old Nazrul Islam, a security guard at the MGM Barracks at the time of the incident, was arrested and charged for allegedly sexually assaulting the 23-year-old woman.

Investigation showed that the victim had gone to the barracks to visit a friend. At the gate, the woman met the suspect, who escorted her to the guardhouse, where he searched her handbag.

“When he was done he turned to [the victim] and [patted her down],” the report said. “During this search, [the

victim] stated that the guard touched her breast.”

Humiliated and embarrassed, the victim left the vicinity, walked to a nearby store, and called a male friend to report the incident. Her friend, 26-year-old Ligang Tang, then reported the incident to DPS at about 10:47pm.

According to the responding officer, the suspect was interviewed regarding the incident, which he reportedly denied.

“When I asked him if he touched her breasts, he hesitated and then later denied touching her, saying no,” the report said. “At this time, [the victim] started crying again with her shoulders shaking and said something to Mr. Tang [who] informed me that the guard did touch her breasts.”

The officer then arrested Islam at about 11:21pm. *(with Kelvin Rodeo, Youth Take-Over Day reporter)*

CTSI CITIZEN



mazda  
cmyk

# Opinion

# Saipan Tribune

**CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER**  
Volume XIV, Issue No. 148

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**John Pangelinan** PUBLISHER  
**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR

MEMBER

**AP** The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

*Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is the owner of Positively Outrageous Results. They have consulted with over 400 businesses in 40 different industries. For better business results go to [BizResults.biz](http://BizResults.biz) to read previous articles.*





Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

# 'PSS won't pay cost of PRAXIS'

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

The Public School System stood pat in its decision not to cover the cost of teachers taking the PRAXIS test, citing that the test score "is the property of the teacher, not PSS," according to acting commissioner of education Dr. David Borja in a statement released yesterday.

"Since the test scores belong to the teacher and is transferable to over 40 states and three territories, it is the teacher that is responsible for paying for the test," the statement read. "This is consistent with long established PSS practice that professionals must pay the cost of tests that is evidence of their competency."

Further, Borja explained that all public elementary and secondary teachers in the United States and its territories are required to meet the highly qualified teacher requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act by August 2006, which requires that teachers must possess a bachelor's

degree or higher; have demonstrated subject matter competency on a "rigorous" state test, and attained full state certification.

"Dr. Borja further explained that the Board of Education has adopted the PRAXIS series of tests as the CNMI's rigorous test of teacher competency. One of the advantages of the PRAXIS test is that 40 states and three territories use this test and the passing scores are transferable. This enables teachers to meet the highly qualified teacher requirement and have it recognized in almost all states and territories," the statement reads.

Rep. Justo Quitugua had introduced a resolution urging the BOE and PSS to use federal funds to pay for the PRAXIS registration and test fees.

The resolution provides that PSS should identify federal funds to pay the full amount of the PRAXIS registration and test fees for teachers who are taking the test for the first time. Any subsequent tests shall be paid for by the teacher, it said.

Such arrangement, the resolution

said, is no different from PSS using local funds to pay the CNMI Bar Association's fees for the two PSS legal counsels "based on the premise that such dues are 'mandatory.'"

Yesterday's statement from PSS cited that PSS does not pay for its legal counsels' bar exam fees.

"PSS professionals, including legal counsels, pay for their own professional examinations," it stated. "Stating that paying the annual association fee of PSS legal counsels is not unlike paying for teacher competency test is tortured logic at best."

The statement indicated that the "resolution is flawed, but we thank Rep. Quitugua nevertheless for thinking about education."

High school teachers are required to take PRAXIS I and II, while elementary school teachers need only take PRAXIS I.

Registration fee for PRAXIS II test is \$35 and the test fee ranges from \$60 to \$85, depending on the core subject.

PSS employs more than 500 teaching staff.

an enforceable legal claim against the Commonwealth. Payment of the Maliti claim would be the equivalent of a gift, a gratuity," Sachs said. "Since Commonwealth funds may only be spent in the public interest, and it is at least questionable that the public interest would be served by payment of a claim that is not legally enforceable, serious questions arise about paying any sum on this claim, let alone almost 1,000 times the present value of the judgment."

Sachs cited another statute saying that a judgment is presumed to have been paid after 20 years have passed.

"The law requires that we presume it has been paid. For the Maliti family now to enforce their claim for payment for the land in question, the burden would be on them to prove that the judgment was not paid.

"On the contrary, however, there is some evidence that the [Trust Territory] government did at least attempt to pay the judgment—checks were written—although we do not know what happened to the money. As far as we know, the Maliti family may have already been paid. This question should, at a minimum, be looked into before any money is paid on this claim at all," Sachs said.

migrants receiving welfare assistance from Karidat. This is a trend we should want to encourage," he said.

He said that one of the new conditions under which the CNMI receives Compact funding "is the requirement that we demonstrate improved outcomes."

In the case of welfare payments such as those Karidat provides, he said, "there might be some concern that increases in funding would lead to the adverse outcome of more immigrants coming to the CNMI because of the availability of this form of welfare support."

Previously, Babauta said, Compact Impact have been used to benefit all people in the CNMI, and not just a select group of immigrants.

"I believe that we should continue this practice by investing the grants in education and health and other infrastructure and institutions that all our people can use and enjoy," he said.

## NMC to mark Int'l Education Week

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College is preparing for the second annual celebration of International Education Week, with focus on promoting culinary arts as a career for students.

NMC president Tony Deleon Guerrero said the governor is set to proclaim Nov. 15-19 as International Education Week, which will be observed by the college for the second year and in the United States for the fifth year.

"With this celebration, we aim to enhance among students a greater understanding of the global community. We hope that through education, we can foster a more harmonious relationship among cultures," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said the proclamation signing is scheduled to be held at the NMC Student Center Friday morning. Starting Monday next week, NMC faculty, staff and students will lead various activities in observance of International Education Week.

The Culinary Exhibition & Cultural Entertainment, to be held from 11:30am to 1:30pm Thursday next week, will be the highlight of the week-long celebration.

Deleon Guerrero said NMC has invited executive chefs from different hotels on island to exhibit their talent and prepare different dishes from around the world.

He noted that the college offers a certificate course in culinary arts, but it has been a while since classes were conducted because of low enrolment.

"We want to promote culinary arts as a career for our students. Culinary could be lucrative career, but it is often not looked at positively. Students don't think of this field as something in which they could be creative," he said.

Other activities planned for the International Education Week are the International Film Day on Monday, NMC Global Trivia Challenge on Tuesday, Cultural Attire Day and Art Exhibition on Wednesday, and the Music Day and Ice Cream Social on Friday.

## \$3.4M

From Page 1

never received any amount from the government.

Last September, the MPLA board of directors approved the payment of \$3.45 million in land compensation to the Maliti heirs. The amount was based on an appraisal conducted in the early 1990s, when the value of Saipan real estate was very high.

The board said \$3.45 million was a fair amount, given the length of time that the family has waited for compensation. The board also maintained that the government, not the Maliti family, was at fault as to why the payment took too long.

Pursuant to this decision, the MPLA made a requisition, requesting the \$3.45 million drawdown from the Land Compensation Fund. The request has been approved by the Finance secretary, and now awaits processing at CDA.

But in a Nov. 8, 2004 letter to CDA's attorney, assistant attorney general Sachs asked the authority to wait before paying out the requisition to allow Finance and MPLA to consider legal and other issues concerning the payment.

"Please note the huge discrepancy between the amount of the 1978 judg-

ment [\$3,682.30] and the requisition amount [\$3,450,000]. With 9-percent judgment interest, even if compounded annually, on \$3,682.30, the total amount would be about \$34,610.52 rather than the amount that MPLA is now trying to pay," Sachs noted.

Citing two reasons, the AGO also offered opinion that the Maliti Estate may no longer have a legal claim in the condemnation case.

First, Sachs said, the claim has long expired under the Commonwealth's 20-year statute of limitations.

"Therefore, assuming for the sake of discussion that there had been no judgment in this case, if the claimants were to file a new legal action for compensation for the land that was taken, the action would fail, because it is barred by the 20-year statute of limitations, which expired before 1998, 20 years after the government took the Maliti land," Sachs said.

He added that the 1978 judgment entered in the condemnation case is itself barred by the passage of time.

Sachs explained that under the law, after a judgment has been in effect for 20 years, the creditor can no longer enforce the judgment.

"Therefore, we believe that the heirs of Angel Maliti no longer have

when she first made the request in a Jan. 27, 2004 letter to Babauta.

She said that Karidat has discussed this issue with DOI deputy assistant secretary David Cohen during a visit last year.

In a follow-up letter dated Oct. 13, 2004, Guerrero said: "It has been nine months now and we have not heard any word from your good office. I would appreciate if you can inform me if Karidat stands a chance to be a recipient of such funding."

In response, Babauta indicated in a Nov. 3 letter to Guerrero that Compact funds are better invested in education, health, and other basic infrastructure and institutions "that all our people can use and enjoy."

Babauta took note that Karidat's data showed "a trend we should want to encourage."

"The data you have presented indicates that over the past six years there is a steady decline in the number of im-

## PASEO

From Page 1

more complex and our competitors are more aggressive," he said. "Coordinated efforts are necessary on our part to maintain and remain competitive, and continue to attract our visitors to the CNMI. Paseo de Marianas is a key phase to the plan to enhance the business environment and attract more visitors and shoppers to the area. [It] represents a great stride that we have undertaken to advance our destination development efforts."

The mall project, costing about \$3.31 million, got underway on Jan 13, 2004. It was initially scheduled for completion on Oct. 7, but additional work around the area resulted in the extension of the contract.

The Strategic Economic Development Council first floated the idea of renovating the Garapan area in the late 1990s as part of its tourist-related beautification program. The mall project is the third phase of the approximately \$25-million Garapan Revitalization Project.

"Picture what [tourists] saw when they strolled through this part in Garapan," said Marianne Aldan-Pierce, a member of the council. "No pedestrian amenities, poor building aesthetics, traffic circulation problems, haphazard automobile parking, no trees, no shade, no sidewalk, poor graphic images... that was the image that remained with us until work on this transformation began this year."

Pierce-Aldan said the project's goal is to enhance the district's physical

environment, to create a safe, positive, memorable experience for those who live here and the visitors that arrive on a daily basis.

"We want to create a strong identity for this district, encourage pedestrian activity and make it a brighter, safer and more pleasant tropical environment. [And] looking around, I'd venture to say that we have succeeded. It is now a place that we can all be very proud of," she added.

The Revitalization Project aims to transform the downtown Garapan area into an attractive and safe focal point for tourist and resident activities, including strolling, outdoor dining, outdoor musical entertainment, and festivities.

Other phases include the renovation of Coral Tree Avenue, which is due for completion in Spring of 2005. The project includes adding about 80 to 100 trees and new sidewalks along the strip, burying power lines underground, and the installation of light posts similar to ones found along the Beach Road pathway.

Other projects in the area are the Visitors' Center located at the American Memorial Park, scheduled to open in March 2005; renovation of the street by the Bank of Guam leading up to Middle Road, which includes adding sidewalks, street lights, and a drainage system within the next 12 months; extending the pathway from American Memorial Park to the Saipan Seaport; and building a cultural museum just south of the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach.

"You can see how this whole area is transforming to a premiere destination," Babauta said.

## 11 QUAKES

From Page 1

southeast of Anatahan.

The event followed a 4.4-intensity tremor that occurred almost 6pm Saturday. This tremor, meanwhile, was located about 90 miles southeast of Saipan, 110 miles east of Rota, and 155 miles south-southeast of Anatahan, and had a depth of about 41.6 kilometers.

The strongest among the recent earthquakes to hit the islands was recorded on Wednesday last week at about 6:31pm. The USGS located the 6.0-strong quake about 90 miles south-east of Saipan, 110 miles east of Rota

and 150 miles south-southeast of Anatahan. It had a depth of 10 kilometers.

The USGS recorded at least two earthquakes last Thursday, and seven others on Wednesday last week. The Thursday quakes occurred during the wee hours and early morning and registered intensities of 4.6 and 4.5, respectively.

On Wednesday last week, the series of tremors began with a 4.7-strong quake about 2:44pm. At 6:13pm that day, a 4.6-intensity quake shook the islands and was succeeded by six other events after short intervals.

According to the USGS, the 6.0-strong tremor and other earthquakes that had intensities 4.5 to 5.2 followed that event.

## KARIDAT

From Page 1

Guerrero raised the point in connection with her request to the governor to give Karidat a portion of the Compact Impact funds to assist these individuals. The CNMI government expects to receive some \$5 million each year beginning this year in Compact Impact funds. This fund is given by the Department of the Interior to the CNMI and other insular areas to help them cope with the impact of migration from Pacific island states.

"Due to limited funds or food supply, we have on several occasions denied their request for food. This is really painful, especially when there are children involved. I am humbly requesting for your kind and compassionate consideration in awarding a small portion of the Compact aid funds to Karidat," said Guerrero



---

# Nation

---

























# Environment

ARC

# Life & Style

See ANNETTE on Page 20

*joint anniversary obit*

## Minnelli countersues ex-bodyguard

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Oscar-winning singer-actress Liza Minnelli filed a \$250,000 counterclaim Tuesday against a former driver and bodyguard in response to his reported allegations that she frequently beat him.

The 58-year-old Minnelli, who also has been accused by her estranged husband of assault, accuses M’Hammed Soumayah of breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. Her court papers ask for a declaratory judgment and an injunction—without elaborating on either point—and relief of “no less than \$250,000.”

The New York Post reported last month that Soumayah had sued Minnelli, alleging she

had physically attacked him during alcohol-fueled tirades. The Post said his lawsuit seeks “money damages arising from personal injuries.”

That lawsuit was sealed when it was filed. Justice Barbara Kapnick ordered it unsealed Tuesday, but agreed to keep it sealed until Minnelli’s lawyers complete their appeals.

Minnelli’s estranged husband, David Gest, said in a statement Oct. 4 he wasn’t surprised by Soumayah’s lawsuit, “as I witnessed Mr. Soumayah being beaten by Ms. Minnelli on many, many occasions.”

Soumayah’s lawyer, Harvey Mars, refused to comment.

## McGraw wins Song of Year at CMA Awards

By JOHN GEROME  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—”Live Like You Were Dying,” a song that became the biggest hit of Tim McGraw’s career, won song of the year at the Country Music Association awards Tuesday night. Written by Tim Nichols and Craig Wiseman, the song spent much of last summer at No. 1.

The song, about living life to its fullest, was special for McGraw, who lost his father, former New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies relief pitcher Tug McGraw, to cancer in January.

The lyrics tell of a man in his early 40s who learned he doesn’t have long to live and is asked how he handled the news. McGraw sings, “Someday I hope you get the chance to live like you were dying.”

“The day we wrote this song started like any other day,” Nichols said. “Now it’s been like no other day.”

In announcing the award, Shania Twain said, “Country music always comes down to a really great song, a song that speaks to us—all of us.”

The song was chosen over Gretchen Wilson’s “Redneck Woman,” Josh Turner’s “Long Black Train,” Alan Jackson’s “Remember When” and the Brad Paisley-Alison Krauss



AP  
Tim McGraw performs at the Country Music Association Awards show on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2004 in Nashville, Tenn.

duet “Whiskey Lullaby.”

“Whiskey Lullaby,” written by Bill Anderson and Jon Randall, won for musical event of the year.

It’s a dark tale about a woman

who breaks a man’s heart, watches him drink himself to death and then is so guilt-stricken that she too—as the songs says—”put that bottle to her head and pulled the trigger.”

“I want to thank country radio for playing this,” Paisley said. “It says a lot about the great people in our format who will take a chance on a double suicide in a drinking song.”

Also during the show, Toby Keith and his daughter, Krystal, performed “Mockingbird” together, and Kix Brooks of the duo Brooks & Dunn paid tribute to the late Ray Charles.

“He really was one soulful country singer. Bless you, Ray Charles,” Brooks said.

Alan Jackson led all nominees for Tuesday’s ceremony with seven, including entertainer of the year and song of the year for “Remember When.” The 38th annual CMA awards show, hosted by Brooks & Dunn with help from Twain, aired live on CBS from Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry House.

Singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson was to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Kristofferson has written hits such as “Help Me Make it Through the Night,” “Me and Bobby McGee” and “Sunday Morning Coming Down.”

Former industry executive Jim Foglesong, who was president of the Nashville divisions of MCA and Capitol Records, also was to be inducted into the Country Hall of Fame. Fogle-song, 82, teaches music business at Vanderbilt University.

wallace

tribune vet



# Brad Pitt visits Ethiopia to study AIDS

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia** (AP)—Brad Pitt spent four days in Ethiopia to learn more about AIDS in Africa as part of a fund-raising campaign to combat the disease on the world's poorest continent.

The trip was organized by DATA, a Washington-based lobby group co-founded by rock star Bono that campaigns on Third World trade, debt and HIV/AIDS. Pitt began his first visit to Ethiopia Friday and left late Monday night.

"It was a listening and learning visit," DATA spokesman Jamie Drummond said Tuesday. He declined requests for comment from Pitt, star of the film "Troy."

While in Ethiopia, Pitt visited local projects fighting the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The 40-year-old actor also met with eight top Ethiopian singers who have collaborated on songs to educate people about HIV and to raise money for AIDS programs.

Tsedenia Gebremarkos, who has just released a hit album in Ethiopia, said Pitt was keen to know how AIDS had affected the nation, where the average annual income is \$100.

"He was very humble and really interested in the situation here," Tsedenia said. "We hope his popularity can raise awareness in the same way we are trying to. We need the support of people like him."

In Africa, 29.4 million people are living with the virus, which has left 25 million children orphaned, according to United Nations figures. Bono has traveled the world spreading the message that more than 6,500



In this undated photo released by the Nelson Mandela Foundation Tuesday Nov. 9 US actor Brad Pitt (top) poses with former South African President Nelson Mandela, after being appointed as a 46664 Ambassador. 46664 aims to raise awareness of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as funds, to help the Nelson Mandela Foundation to develop and support practical programs for those affected by HIV/AIDS in South Africa. 46664 was Mandela's prison number while he was detained by the apartheid regime.

Africans die every day from AIDS, while 8,000 new people are infected daily.

Only about 50,000 Africans get potentially life-saving drugs, known as anti-retrovirals, while

at least 4 million people need the drugs, which cost more than most Africans earn.

## Toby Keith will perform on AOL live

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Toby Keith will become the first country artist to perform on AOL Music Live, the live performance series that has previously tapped Nelly, Usher, Avril Lavigne and Rod Stewart.

The Web concert will stream Wednesday from The Factory in Franklin, about 20 miles south of Nashville, according to Keith's Web site.

Keith said the show is a good way to reach his fans.

"I've got a tremendous young following," the 43-year-old singer said.

The concert is part of a media blitz this week to support the release of his "Greatest Hits 2" album Tuesday.

Keith was to appear on CBS' "The Early Show" Tuesday, then perform that evening on the 38th Annual Country Music Association Awards, where he was nominated for six awards.

On Sunday, he'll perform on the American Music Awards, to be broadcast by ABC.

## Colin Farrell may star in 'Miami Vice'

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Colin Farrell says he's not bonded to Bond, but thinks it would be nice to star in "Miami Vice." The star of the upcoming historical epic "Alexander" said he's had no talks with producers to replace Pierce Brosnan as the superspy James Bond in a new 007 movie, and laughed at the idea of sporting the legendary tuxedo.

Brosnan, 51, who has played Bond in the last four 007 films, says Farrell would be his ideal successor.

"I'll give it to Colin Farrell."

He'll eat the head off them all," Brosnan said following a recent entertainment awards ceremony in Dublin, Ireland.

But Farrell, saying that everyone keeps asking him about Brosnan's endorsement, says, "I never heard a thing. He probably wants 10 percent!"

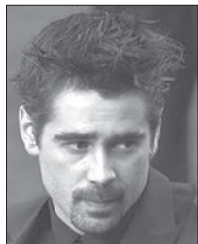
While he nixed Bond, the 28-year-old actor confirmed that he's considering stepping into the role of police Detective Sonny Crockett for a movie version of the '80s TV drama "Miami Vice."

Farrell would play the part

originated by Don Johnson. Jamie Foxx is negotiating to co-star as his Crockett's partner, Ricardo Tubbs, played by Philip Michael Thomas in the TV series.

Michael Mann, the director of "Collateral," "Heat" and "The Insider" and the executive producer of the "Miami Vice" TV series, is developing the story, which Farrell said wouldn't go the comedy route, like the films inspired by "Dragnet" and "Starsky & Hutch."

It's not a comedy at all. It's cool," said Farrell in an interview. "Michael Mann wrote it and when he writes it's good and it goes pretty deep."



Farrell

## Nicky Hilton, Todd Meister end marriage

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—It's splitsville in Sin City. Hotel heiress Nicky Hilton and New York businessman Todd Andrew Meister have officially ended their brief marriage.

A Las Vegas judge on Tuesday granted the newlyweds an annulment, according to a joint statement issued by the couple's representatives.

"Both parties have ended the

marriage amicably, and they remain good friends," the statement said.

Hilton, 21, married Meister, 33, at the Las Vegas Wedding Chapel on Aug. 15.

It's not clear when the pair filed the annulment paperwork in Clark County Family Court. A court



Hilton

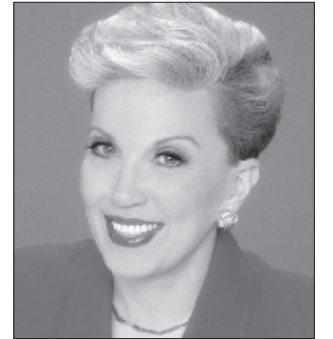
spokesman said a case under the name of Todd Meister was filed Monday but the judge sealed it.

Hilton, younger sister of "The Simple Life" star Paris Hilton, has dabbled in acting, appearing in "Wishman" in 1991 and presenting at MTV award shows.

## E-mailed greetings send good wishes safely to our troops

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** My name is Crystal and I am 24 years old. For some time now, I have wanted to send letters to our troops overseas to express how much the citizens of this country appreciate and respect them and their families. They sacrifice so much to serve our country. I would like the privilege of telling them we care about them, as well as the chance to make some new friends.



*Dear Abby*

With the holidays quickly approaching, I believe it is even more important to show that we care. Could you please let me and your other readers know of a way we can e-mail or send regular mail to make all of this possible?

I would also like to remind everyone that as we are all busy with cooking and shopping for the holidays, we should take some time to let our brave members of the military know we care for them and their families. God bless everyone in the world!

APPRECIATIVE IN SAN JOSE

**DEAR APPRECIATIVE:** Your sentiments are beautiful, and I can't think of a better time to express them than today—Veterans Day—and also the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the anthrax scare, our Department of Defense suspended the Operation Dear Abby mail program. The DOD believed that mail made it too easy for terrorists to send bombs and/or other harmful agents to the military.

On Dec. 20, 2001, the Department of Defense and Dear Abby partnered to launch an official DOD Web site so that messages of support could be safely sent to our troops. Members of all branches of the military worldwide can read these messages wherever they are stationed—even in a submarine deep in the ocean.

OperationDearAbby.net, the only official DOD Web site for sending personally written messages of support to all branches of the military year-round, is easy to use. Please visit and send as many messages as you wish. It's quicker and less expensive than the old way, and messages from home are the biggest morale booster there is.

And while I'm on the subject of morale boosters—let's not forget the many veterans in veterans hospitals around the country. Cards would certainly be appreciated by those patients, so please consider sending some to the ones in your state.

□ □ □ □

**DEAR ABBY:** A close friend of mine is pregnant and has been told by her doctor that the baby has a serious genetic mutation that will most likely result in a stillbirth or death shortly after it is born. I would like to have a baby shower for her, but I am not sure if it is appropriate because of the unhappy circumstances. As you can imagine, my friend feels very sad about this situation. Please advise.

CARING FRIEND IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR CARING FRIEND:** In view of the fact that this child isn't going to make it—barring a miracle—there are better ways to show your support than to host a baby shower. You and her other friends should stay in close contact with the mother-to-be, and provide a willing ear and shoulder to cry on. She needs to know that you are there for her far more than gift-wrapped reminders of the baby she will lose.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



---

# Pastimes

---

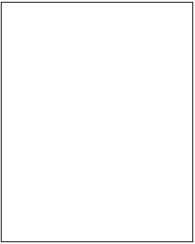








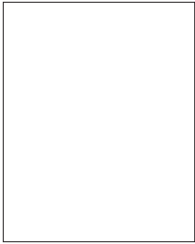




27

Saipan Tribune

# Sports



25